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On the Cover

Staff Sgt. Joseph M. Walton of Company D, 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, a Springfield, Mass., resident, provides security for a medevac operation during eXportable Combat Training Capability exercises here. (Army photo by Spc. Nicholas Michaud, 65th Press Camp Headquarters)

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Massachusetts Minuteman
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Command Message

Thank You for Making the World a Better Place

By Governor Deval L. Patrick

For 235 years, the Massachusetts National Guard has personified the ideal of the Citizen-Soldier. Those of you currently serving, and all who served before you, are a hallmark of our democracy and an example for all generations to emulate. Every single time America and our commonwealth has needed you, you have been there – like earlier this year, during Operation Rising Water and Operation Broken Pipe.

During Operation Rising Water, you assisted our citizens in nearly 30 communities. You filled and delivered nearly 33,000 sandbags, helped elderly citizens leave their homes and managed evacuations.

During Operation Broken Pipe, once again the Soldiers and Airmen of the Massachusetts National Guard were ready and reliable. You distributed clean drinking water. You checked on isolated members in our communities. Beyond personnel, the Guard provided communications equipment, trucks, armories, water, fuel transportation and generators.

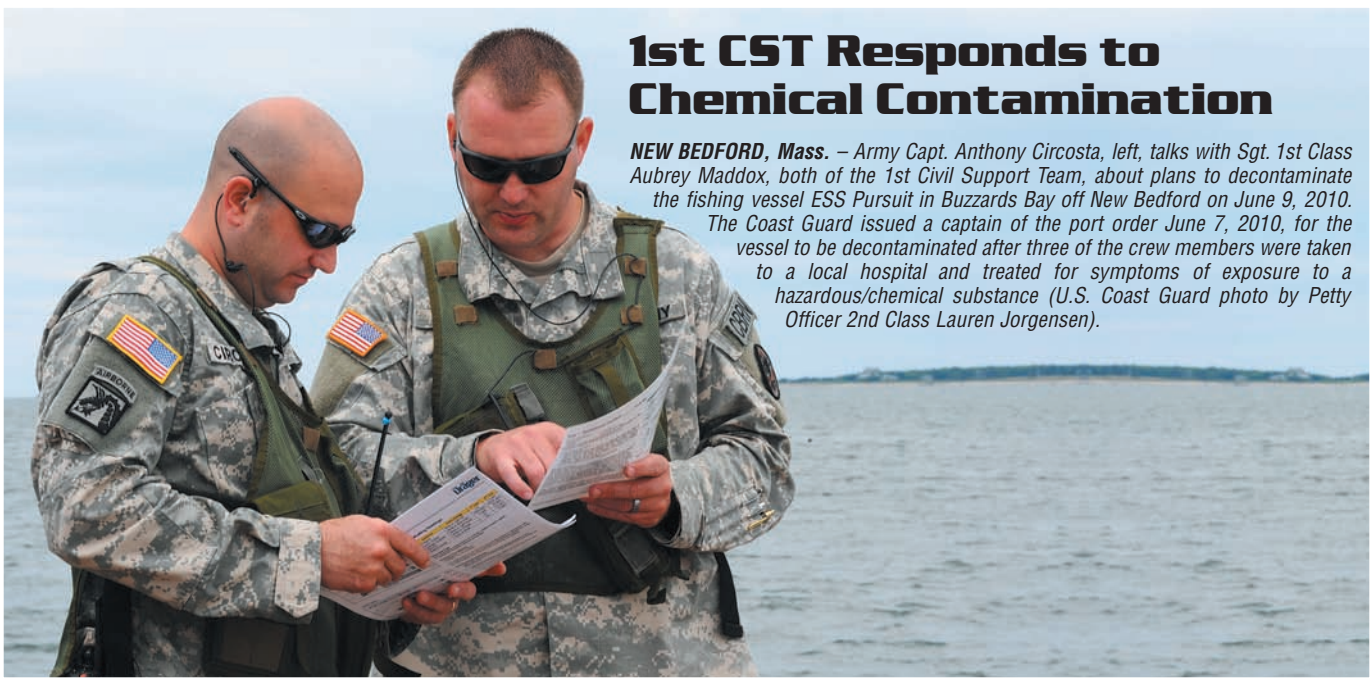
Thank you for once again being there when Massachusetts needed you.

Our all-volunteer force is America's greatest strategic asset – you serve and you sacrifice with pride and with honor. And in return, we will ensure that all Guard members have the right training, equipment and support to succeed, both during their missions and after.

To all the men and women of the Massachusetts National Guard who protected our citizens and communities in these operations, you have our eternal thanks and gratitude for once again being at your best when times were at their worst.

And to those of you reading this while in harm's way, we pray that God grants you a successful mission and a speedy and safe return home. ★

***KABUL** – Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, left, shakes hands with Master Sgt. William Tripp as Soldiers look on. Gov. Patrick boosted the morale of the 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, Soldiers by visiting them at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan, July 24, 2010 (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michael Hardy).*



1st CST Responds to Chemical Contamination

***NEW BEDFORD, Mass.** – Army Capt. Anthony Circosta, left, talks with Sgt. 1st Class Aubrey Maddox, both of the 1st Civil Support Team, about plans to decontaminate the fishing vessel ESS Pursuit in Buzzards Bay off New Bedford on June 9, 2010. The Coast Guard issued a captain of the port order June 7, 2010, for the vessel to be decontaminated after three of the crew members were taken to a local hospital and treated for symptoms of exposure to a hazardous/chemical substance (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Lauren Jorgensen).*

In Memoriam

Sgt. Robert J. Barrett
April 19, 2010

Sgt. Robert J. Barrett was killed in action while on a dismounted patrol south of Kabul International Airport when a suicide bomber, disguised as an Afghan soldier, detonated an individual-borne improvised explosive device on April 19.

Barrett, 21, of Fall River, mobilized with the National Guard in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in January 2010 as a member of 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, from Fall River, Mass. The 101st FA is in Afghanistan mentoring and training the Afghan Army.

"The citizens of the commonwealth mourn with Sergeant Barrett's family as they grieve his untimely loss. We will be forever grateful for his service and sacrifice." said Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. ✭

We will be forever grateful for his service and sacrifice."

– Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick

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Team Soldiering on After Tragic Loss

By 2nd Lt. Jordan Breau
1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment

KABUL, Afghanistan – Embedded Training Team 6-1, from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, Danvers, Mass., took a collective sigh of relief as they hopped in their up-armored Humvees and headed back to Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan.

They had just completed their first mission since the death of their teammate, U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Barrett, who was killed while on a training mission April 19, 2010, by a suicide bomber disguised as an Afghan soldier.

The loss devastated the 101st FA and the members of the ETT. The ETT was Barrett's team – Soldiers he was with 24 hours a day.

"It was good to get out there and help the Afghan National Army and shake off some of the anxiety and nerves," said Pfc. Christopher Capozzoli, ETT 6-1, training mentor.

"We wanted to get out there as soon as possible," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Lacerda, ETT 6-1, training mentor. "Sgt. Barrett refused to stop working even when he was sick. He was always highly motivated and soldiered on through the toughest of times. We wanted to pay homage to the spirit of Sgt. Barrett and carry on the mission; he would have wanted us to continue to help the people of this nation."

The next day, the ETT conducted a humanitarian assistance mission to Naswan Pansat School, Kabul, with help from Afghan National Police and the Afghan National Army, in honor and remembrance of Barrett.

This unique humanitarian mission was the first time that the ETT simultaneously worked together with both branches of the Afghan National Security Forces – the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army.

The Afghan police officers and Soldiers distributed donated school supplies, blankets and clothing to the students. Some of the supplies and toys were donated by Barrett's family.

The 25,000 students are taught primarily by women. Under Taliban rule, Afghan women were banned from receiving an education. Now they are leading the charge for education.

According to United Nation Education Scientific and Cultural Organization, only 28.1 percent of the entire population of Afghanistan can read and write. "Seeing schools packed with both male and female students is a fantastic sight because these students are the future of Afghanistan. They understand the importance of education and envision hope for their nation," said 1st Lt. Louis Santillo, B Battery, 1/101st FA.

KABUL, Afghanistan *– First Lt. Jeffrey Hartline, left, and 1st Lt. Louis Santillo, right, stand with an Afghan National Police officer and an Afghan National Army soldier at Naswan Pansat School on May 2, 2010. Hartline and Santillo helped the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police distribute school supplies and clothing to the students (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Senior Chief Kevin Elliott, Task Force Cyclone).*

The conditions of the school are nowhere near that of the average American public school. Many of the classrooms are hollowed out metal shipping containers, most without desks or chairs. Students learn while squatting in the dust and heat for hours on end. Some classes do not have a room at all but are being taught inside a dark hallway.

The 101st FA heard the school's pleas for assistance and have already provided 100 desks and chairs and is working to supply 300 more desks and chairs within the month.

"We are so happy that you are here, and we are so grateful for what you have done for our school," said Habibula Hamdard, principal of the Naswan Pansat School.

"It is amazing how disciplined the students are. They take their education very seriously, but on the other hand it was heartwarming to see them smile as well. I felt we did a great thing today," said Spc. Robert Hopkins, ETT 6-1, training mentor.

This humanitarian mission was a step in easing the hearts and minds of the ETT and begins the process to heal the scars from the loss of Barrett. The team looks onward to the task of mentoring the Afghan National Army and supporting the Afghan populace.

"The mission must go on, we must go on. We took a devastating loss, but we must continue to advance and support the Afghan nation," said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Hartline, ETT 6-1 team leader. ✭

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102nd Air Operations Group Participates in Austere Challenge-10

By Capt. Brendan Simison, 102nd Air Operations Group

OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mass. – The 102nd Air Operations Group of the Massachusetts Air National Guard participated in the joint exercise Austere Challenge-10 on May 6-7.

What made this effort unique is that the 102nd AOG seamlessly integrated the distant exercise operations from their home station, a first for the Air National Guard. The exercise gave the 102nd AOG an opportunity to prove the effectiveness of "distributed operations," in which the Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen aligned with and supported an active duty unit, the 608th Air and Space Operations Center at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., from Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass.

Austere Challenge is an annual U.S. European Command-scheduled and executed multi-tiered command and control exercise focused on Joint Task Force certification. As required, the exercise scenario incorporates the unique capabilities of U.S. Strategic Command to provide global kinetic or non-kinetic effects to support a conflict anywhere in the world. For USSTRATCOM's Joint Functional Component Command-Global Strike, this might include the use of Air Force long-range bombers such as the B-1 Lancer, B-2 Spirit or B-52 Stratofortress.

For the first time, the 102nd AOG, with their aligned active duty unit, the 608th ASO, supported the USSTRATCOM by executing a Time Sensitive Planning event through integrated operations. The units worked together to analyze and plan possible long-range strike missions while bridging the 1,231 miles between Barksdale Air Force Base and Otis Air National Guard Base with an integrated computer planning and analysis network and the strong personal relationships the units have developed.

"This exercise gave the 102nd a chance to demonstrate an idea they have helped pioneer – distributed operations; and commanders at the highest levels were impressed," said Col. Michael Tichenor, 608th AOC incoming commander.

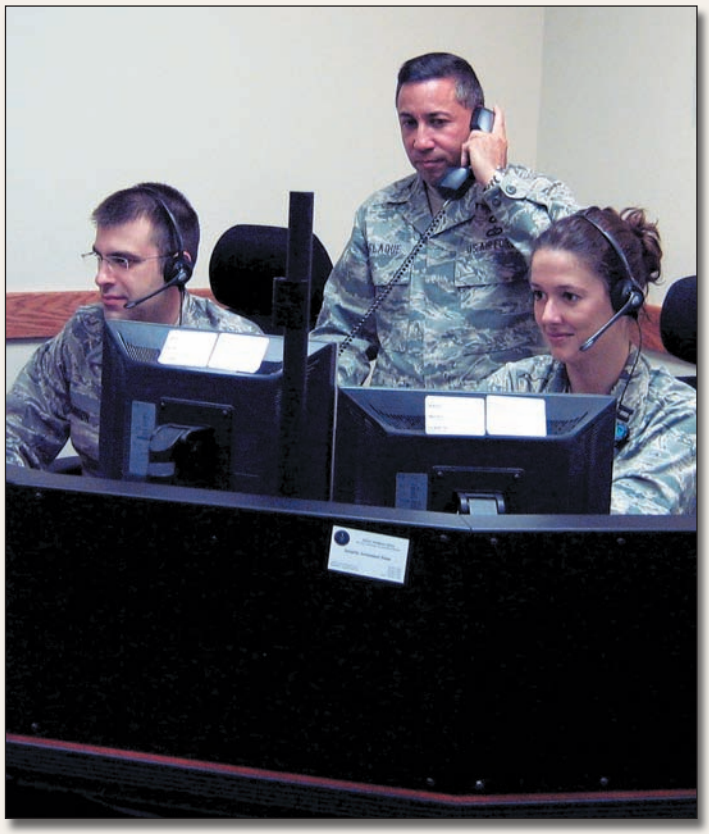
The 102nd AOG provided the 608th AOC with intelligence and mission analysis support, but their primary role for the exercise was to propose and develop suggested "Global Strike" Courses of Action for presentation to USSTRATCOM and USEUCOM commanders. In a real-world event, the COAs would also be presented to the Secretary of Defense.

"Our role was to support the mission analysis cell at the 608th AOC as well as lead the COA Development Team," said Col. Frank Aflague, 102nd AOG Strategy Division chief.

"The learning curve was steep, but we really pulled together and did the job," said Capt. Mike Drake, 102nd AOG course of action development team. Drake was an airline pilot who recently returned to service in the Air National Guard after a 10-year break from active duty.

The 102nd AOG exceeded every expectation in this endeavor – they successfully developed an executable plan to support a USEUCOM requirement halfway around the world. Additionally, after an unplanned computer outage at Barksdale Air Force Base, the 102nd AOG demonstrated their capability of providing not only augmentation but also a degree of redundancy in the critical AOC weapon system.

"I am so proud of the 102nd AOG Time Sensitive Planning Cell. This was an incredible undertaking, and we asked a lot from our team. As usual, they knocked it out of the park," said Lt. Col. Martin Richard, 102nd AOG course of action development lead.



Capt. Brendan Simison, Col. Frank Aflague and Capt. Sara Stockhaus, 102nd Air Operations Group, participated in the joint exercise, Austere Challenge-10 on May 6-7. The exercise gave the 102nd AOG an opportunity to prove the effectiveness of "distributed operations," in which the Massachusetts Air National Guardsmen supported the 608th Air and Space Operations Center, located at Barksdale AFB, La., from Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass., a distance of more than 1,200 miles (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Catyb).

"I really wanted to lean forward and show the leadership at STRATCOM and 8th Air Force how far we've come," said Col. Rich Sweeten, 102nd AOG commander.

Sweeten and Col. Steve Luxion, 608th AOC commander, worked closely to ensure that members of the Barksdale unit, who visited Otis during a recent Air National Guard Unit Training Assembly weekend, provided an intensive training program in the days prior to the exercise.

"This concept of Total Force Integration within the AOC weapons system has been a long time in the making," said Luxion. "It was great to see it in action!"

Collectively, the 102nd AOG and the 608th AOC provide a more robust system and an amplified level of expertise to the USSTRATCOM commander. During the debriefing at the end of the exercise, USSTRATCOM reported that "This was the best TSP event we have seen."

In the future, both units look to bolster their ties and capabilities through a continued integrated partnership in every aspect of running an AOC.

"This exercise was validation of the tremendous efforts this unit has put into standing up the AOG and proves that AOC integration with the Guard and Reserves is a winning combination," said Col. Timothy Estep, 101st Air Operations Squadron commander. ★

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We Are Not Just Here Hauling Gear

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Allison M. Turner,
1166th Combat Heavy Equipment Transport Company

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The main effort of the 1166th Combat Heavy Equipment Transport Company, 164th Transportation Battalion, Massachusetts National Guard, is the withdrawal of equipment from Iraq and to support the war in Afghanistan. This is not all we do. The 1166th CHC is also part of 164th Transportation Battalion, Massachusetts National Guard. Our Soldiers come from many different backgrounds and have a variety of talents that they bring together to create an extraordinary company.

Our Soldiers owe a good deal of that success to the overwhelming and continuous support from our hometown communities. In gratitude for that support, many Soldiers have helped an 8-year-old boy named Clay Ray-Cook. His story has touched their hearts. Clay, son of Christine Ray-Cook and Clay Cook, is a close family friend of Staff Sgt. Jessica Biggins.

After four weeks of what his doctors thought was bronchitis, Clay was diagnosed with leukemia – a cancer of the blood or bone marrow and the cause is unknown. When Clay first found out, he wrote in one of his blog entries: "The doctors said I needed some new blood because mine was not doing its job anymore."

Clay Ray-Cook, an 8-year-old boy fighting leukemia, is supported by the members of the 1166th Combat Heavy Equipment Transport Company, Massachusetts National Guard.

In response, the 1166th brought a group of our Soldiers together for a company picture and held up letters that spelled out "Clay is Our Hero." Clay saw this picture one morning before surgery and it simply brightened his day. When the Soldiers heard how he enjoyed the picture, they felt it wasn't enough and wanted to do more. Although support and love from family and friends is always a tremendous help during such hard times, it often isn't enough. As many people know, medical treatment for cancer can be very costly. To help with the expensive medical treatments, many of our Soldiers have made generous donations to a fund set up in Clay's name. Now they feel the satisfaction of giving back to the community.

Our mission focus involves more than the successful withdrawal of equipment and support of the war, we also strive to give back to the communities that we live to protect.

If you would like to get involved and give your support to Clay and his family, e-mail Staff Sgt. Jessica Biggins at JessB1058@yahoo.com for more information. ★

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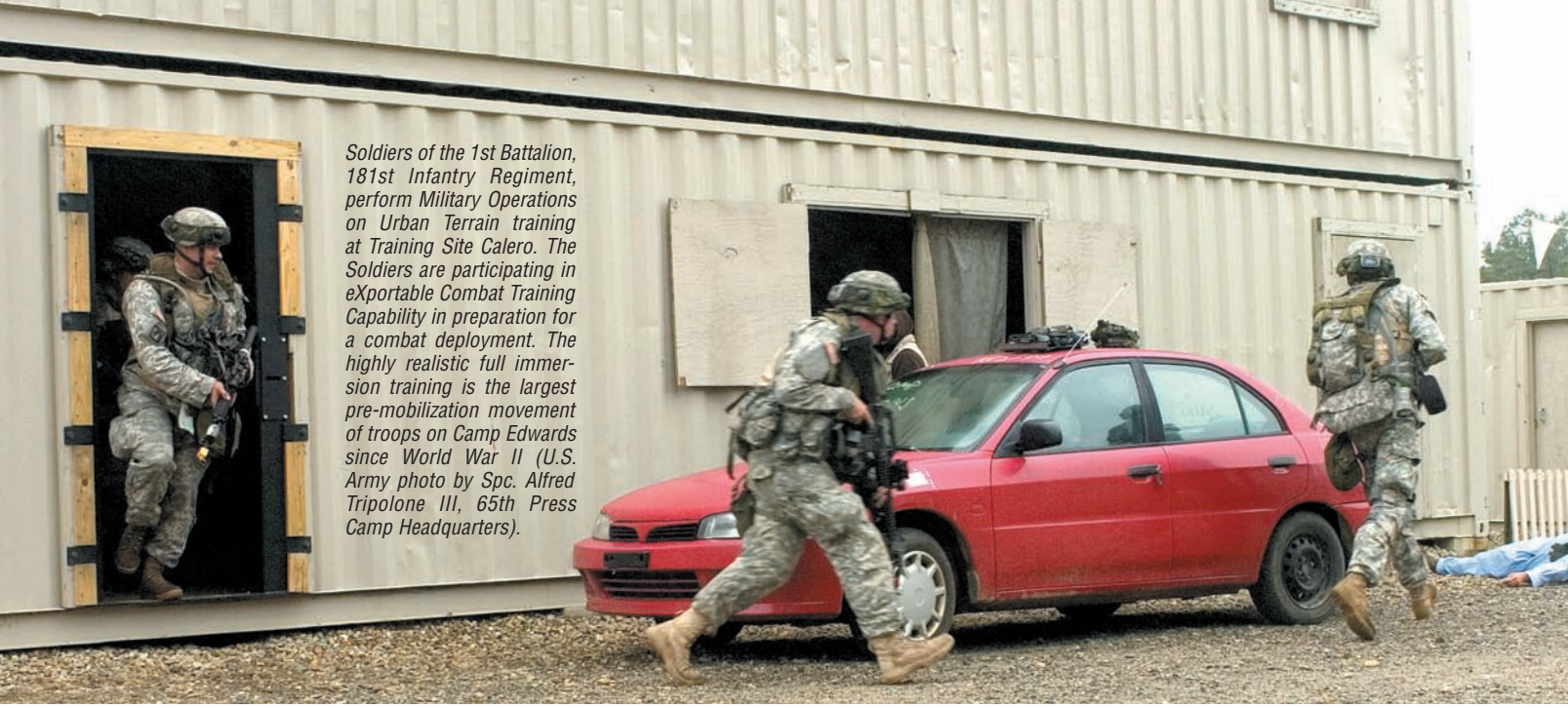

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, perform Military Operations on Urban Terrain training at Training Site Calero. The Soldiers are participating in eXportable Combat Training Capability in preparation for a combat deployment. The highly realistic full immersion training is the largest pre-mobilization movement of troops on Camp Edwards since World War II (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Alfred Tripolone III, 65th Press Camp Headquarters).

Distinguished Guests Visit XCTC

Guard Leaders Show Off State-of-the-Art Training Site

By Spc. Nicholas Michaud
65th Press Camp Headquarters

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. – Massachusetts National Guard top leaders and state officials toured the training areas here and viewed eXportable Combat Training Capabilities exercises June 10, 2010.

Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard; Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sellars, commander of the Massachusetts Army National Guard; Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety; Massachusetts State Rep. Matthew Patrick; Michael Coelho, Executive Office of Public Safety chief of staff; Paul Connelly, assistant secretary for Homeland Security; and other distinguished guests were on site at the various XCTC training areas.

Areas included in the XCTC tour were Tactical Training Base Kelley, which housed battalion tactical operation centers for the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, as well as billeting, recreation and dining facilities for members of the units stationed there.

Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, the Adjutant General, Massachusetts National Guard, shows and explains the Soldiers' training to Beth Heffernan, secretary, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Michael Coelho, EOPSS chief of staff, and Karen Wells, senior counsel, law enforcement and fire services, while Staff Sgt. Robert Carothers runs the training site Wardak Village and monitors the Soldiers through the eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise on Camp Edwards on June 10, 2010 (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Eric J. Kolesnikovas).

Also included were the Wardak and Sharana training villages, the exercise control tent and the task analysis facility where personnel oversee and document the training that day.

The ExCon tent is where data from the XCTC exercises are controlled and monitored. Daniel P. McLemore, the XCTC deputy exercise director, gave a brief on how the systems used relayed the data. Another brief was given on the Enhanced Dismount Instrumentation system by Maj. Robert Donovan, operations officer for the ExCon tent.

The EDI, or "Eddie," system uses GPS to display individual Soldiers' movements on the battlefield. The movements are then recorded for use in after-action reports, which aid in critiquing every Soldier's action during the XCTC exercise.

At the Wardak and Sharana sites, the distinguished visitors observed units participating in situational training exercises that simulate situations they may encounter while deployed.

At Wardak village, Soldiers where trained on clearing a village and working with civilians on the battlefield, known as COBs. At the Sharana site, Soldiers worked on military operations in urban terrain, known as MOUT, and conducted drills on removing causalities from a hostile environment.

At the COB forward operating base, the guests were given a briefing about XCTC opposing forces and civilians, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the action. The guests were also shown how mock car bombs and other simulated roadside bombs work. Replicated bombs were set off at the conclusion of the brief. The devices were set up by WESTefx, a Los Angeles based special effects company.

Following the tour, Carter spoke with distinguished guests about Camp Edwards' long history as a training site for U.S troops. Carter, former commander of Camp Edwards, said that the current MOUT site is very close to the mock-up of a German village that was used for MOUT in World War II.

Heffernan was impressed with the tour of the XCTC exercises she saw as well as the care and attention given to detail.

Heffernan also felt it was good for the Soldiers to be familiarized with the customs of the local places where they will be deployed.

Sellars said that the XCTC exercises were well run and gave credit to unit leadership. "We are overall exactly where I thought we would be on training day four," he said at the completion of the tour. ✯

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety; Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard; Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sellars, commander of the Massachusetts Army National Guard; and Paul Connelly, the assistant secretary for Homeland Security; look on as Solders clear rooms during eXportable Combat Training Capability exercises here June 10 (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nicholas Michaud, 65th Press Camp Headquarters).

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Army National Guard, depart Tactical Training Base Kelley on June 8, 2010. The Soldiers are participating in eXportable Combat Training Capability exercises at Camp Edwards, which provide the Northeast region with local pre-mobilization training. The XCTC reduces the Soldiers' time away from home and the expense of extended stays at mobilization stations (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nicholas Michaud, 65th Press Camp Headquarters).

Sheriff Deputizes Massachusetts Guard MPs

Story and photos by Army Sgt. 1st Class Don Veitch
65th Press Camp Headquarters

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. – More than 60 military police from the Massachusetts National Guard were deputized in an official swearing-in ceremony at the Joint Visitors Information Bureau on June 8, 2010.

The Soldiers from the 972nd Military Police Company, based out of Reading, conducted law enforcement operations in support of the eXportable Combat Training Capability, or XCTC, exercise and were sworn in by Barnstable County Sheriff James M. Cummings.

Cummings said the MPs of the 972nd now have the authority to enforce any law that may result in a disturbance of the peace on Camp Edwards. This new authority is in addition to their normal military police functions.

The 972nd put their newly deputized Soldiers on the roads to conduct traffic and range safety patrols during XCTC to provide additional safety for the large influx of civilian and military personnel working and training on the base.

XCTC is the largest pre-deployment training exercise conducted on Camp Edwards since World War II and consists of Soldiers training on a series of field exercises designed to simulate an overseas environment. The goal is to provide high quality, realistic battlefield experience for approximately 2,000 Soldiers in preparation for mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

With an increase of personnel, vehicle movement and high tempo training brought on with XCTC, the risk of accidents increases as does the need for increased law-enforcement patrolling.

Soldiers of the 972nd Military Police Company recite the formal oath of office as they are deputized by Barnstable County Sheriff James M. Cummings on June 8, 2010.

The MPs have not actively worked on Camp Edwards in more than 10 years. In the interim, the Massachusetts State Police and contract security handled the responsibility of post security.

The 972nd began their mission June 1 and continued until the conclusion of the XCTC exercise near the end of the month.

"Our mission is to ensure a safe training environment," said Maj. Bryan K. Pillai, Camp Edwards provost marshal.

"This is a great opportunity to use our law enforcement training," said Pillai. "These competencies are what we rely on while deployed to train Afghan and Iraqi police."

Pvt. Brett M. Mohr, a military police Soldier with the 972nd, said her duties reiterate the importance of the job MPs are performing. Mohr, a South Boston native, added that the safety patrols were a good thing with the large numbers of people for XCTC.

Pfc. Eddie Gomez, a 972nd MP from Clinton, said the assignment was a great experience and he was proud to provide security and safety for the Soldiers training on post.

"This ceremony demonstrates a level of interagency cooperation that is unique to the Massachusetts National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sellars, commander of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

"The Massachusetts Guard has a long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship with local officials and agencies," said Lt. Col. Jack McKenna, public affairs officer, Massachusetts National Guard.

"We have a great relationship with all branches of the service," said Cummings. "We're thrilled to have them here." ★

Soldiers of the 972nd Military Police Company recite the formal oath of office as they are deputized by Barnstable County Sheriff James M. Cummings on June 8, 2010. The MPs performed law enforcement patrols in support of training associated with the eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise on Camp Edwards during June.

Good Chow, Good Times, Good People

Tactical Training Base Kelley Strives for Home Comforts

By Army Spc. Nicholas Michaud, 65th Press Camp Headquarters

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. – In deployment, a forward operating base is a Soldier's home away from home. It should go without saying that an FOB should therefore have most of the comforts of home. National Guard procedure is to train as we fight, and Tactical Training Base Kelley is no different.

While participating in the eXportable Combat Training Capability exercises, Soldiers on TTB Kelley at Camp Edwards live as they would during combat deployments at an FOB.

On TTB Kelley, Soldiers have multiple ways to feel more at home, including well-cooked meals, access to Army and Air Force Exchange Service convenience store trailers and the Internet.

One of the best ways to feel at home is enjoying a well-cooked meal. The mess tent on TTB Kelley goes above and beyond normal expectations to ensure the Soldiers' happiness.

"We try to go all out for the guys," said Sgt. Tammy Macha, a food service specialist with the 972nd Military Police Company, 211th Military Police Battalion. "We want it to be like home."

The mess tent at TTB Kelley serves more than 3,000 meals a day. Serving breakfast and dinner for the troops training at TTB Kelley requires near round-the-clock staffing. There are many jobs that must be done to make sure mess tent operations run smoothly.

One of the most important jobs is ensuring that everything is cleaned and prepared. Throughout the day the focus is on sanitation, said Staff Sgt. Stenard D. Ross, a shift supervisor with the TTB Kelley mess tent.

The first shift for the cooks begins at 1:30 a.m. After food is prepared for the morning meal, the Soldiers working in the mess tent start serving. Typical breakfast fare includes French toast, pancakes and eggs.

After breakfast is served, the mess tent Soldiers begin restocking, receiving shipments and assisting with the distribution of meals ready to eat, or MREs, for lunch.

The evening shift starts at 10:30 a.m. The mess tent Soldiers continue with the supply work and begin preparing the evening meal. Dinner meals served can include homemade pot roast, meatloaf and pork chops.

Special requests are not unheard of at TTB Kelley, and the Soldiers at the mess tent are more than happy to try to make them happen.

"We try to accommodate them," said Macha. "They wanted apple juice; we got them apple juice."

Overall, there are 23 food service specialists from six different units working hard at the TTB Kelley mess tent to ensure that no one goes hungry and that the Soldiers are properly fed.

Another way to make Soldiers feel at home is the AAFES trailer, which has a selection of snacks, drinks and comfort items such as ointments, pillows, socks and soap.

AAFES employees who volunteer to work on TTB Kelley come from all over the state and are more than happy to serve Soldiers staying on the base.

Sgt. Talvin L. Green of Boston, center, a shift leader in the 1182nd Forward Support Company, helps to ensure that Soldiers are well fed, June 16, 2010. Proper nutrition is an important piece of every Soldier's daily puzzle. By making sure Soldiers have enough to eat, Green and his team help every Soldier's readiness to participate in eXportable Combat Training Capability exercises. XCTC is being held to hone Soldiers' combat skills for overseas deployment (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Alfred Tripolone III, 65th Press Camp Headquarters).

"We are here to make people happy," said June Knochel, a four-year AAFES employee who usually works out of the Westover Air Force Base AAFES.

The AAFES trailer receives two shipments a week at TTB Kelley, but sometimes that isn't enough, because items can be sold out in as little as three hours, said Knochel.

Just because an item is sold out, however, doesn't mean that the people at AAFES can't get it for you.

Rabecka Pichette, a two-year employee of the Hanscom Air Force Base AAFES, said that TTB Kelley AAFES employees will make runs to Hanscom Air Force Base as needed to pick up items that Soldiers request.

Employees at the TTB Kelley AAFES trailer are proud to live the AAFES motto, "We go were you go."

"We are just giving back to the Soldiers," said Jamie Hollings, who has been working at the Hanscom AAFES for more than a year.

Another important comfort of home that is made available to Soldiers on TTB Kelley is Internet connections. Internet access comes in three forms: computers in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tents, hard lines in the Soldiers' living quarters and free Wi-Fi throughout the TTB.

The Internet on TTB Kelley allows Soldiers to check e-mails, maintain Army Knowledge Online accounts and surf the Web.

Staff Sgt. James W. O'Donoghue, base operator with the mayor's cell on TTB Kelley, who is usually assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, is pleased with the MWR computers' efficiency, which is between 90 and 100 percent. "We've had little to no trouble with them," he said.

TTB Kelley serves as a home away from home for Soldiers training during XCTC, just as FOBs do overseas. The hard work of the people behind the scenes at the TTB is reflected by the home comforts provided to the Soldiers, making their time away from home a little more pleasant. ★

Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Pauer, Massachusetts Air National Guard, explains the EGON counter-remote controlled improvised explosive device system to Brig. Gen. L. Scott Rice, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Massachusetts Air National Guard, at IMPACT Science & Technology in Nashua, N.H.

Guard Friendly Employer Recognized for Support

By the Massachusetts National Guard Public Affairs Office

MILFORD, Mass. – Brig. Gen. L. Scott Rice, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Massachusetts Air National Guard, visited Impact Science & Technology, a division of ITT Corporation in Nashua, N.H., July 1, 2010.

On behalf of the Air National Guard, Rice expressed appreciation for the support IST shows to its employee and Massachusetts Air National Guard member, Lt. Col. Eric Pauer. As a traditional Guardsman, Pauer serves as director of logistics-Air, Joint Force Headquarters in Milford.

IST designs and develops electronic countermeasure systems that protect U.S. and allied military personnel against remote controlled improvised explosive devices. Their counter-RCIED systems are installed in military vehicles to jam radio frequency signals used by insurgents to control RCIEDs. Thus, IST systems prevent insurgents from remotely detonating their RCIEDs, rendering the insurgents' attacks ineffective.

Since 2004, IST has fielded thousands of counter-RCIED systems including the Mobile Multi-Band Jammer, the Counter RCIED Electronic Warfare 2.1 system, and most recently the EGON system for U.S. Special Operations Command. The visit also provided an opportunity for Rice to get a better understanding of the various electronic force protection systems that Pauer helps to design, develop, and field as an employee at IST.

During the visit, Rice toured the facility and received detailed briefings on the systems that IST is developing to protect U.S. and allied military personnel against the RCIEDs.

On behalf of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Massachusetts Air National Guard, Rice presented IST with the Patriotic Employer award. This award was accepted by Pauer's boss, Scott Traurig, IST chief engineer. Rice addressed all employees and thanked them for their work in supporting and protecting the warfighter. He also presented IST with the Hometown Heroes Medal, to symbolize their key support for the National Guard and Reserve as well as providing mission essential force protection equipment. The Hometown Heroes award was accepted by Robert Cotter, vice president and general manager for IST.

The visit gave Rice an appreciation of the important work that Pauer does as a member of the IST team in developing systems to protect our military personnel. From IST's perspective, the general's visit and remarks were especially memorable – not only for the mission-critical need fulfilled by IST's equipment but also because nearly half of the employees at IST have served in the armed forces in the past. The occasion provided a rare opportunity to meet and hear first hand from a general officer about the importance of the work done at IST in supporting the military. ✯

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26th MEB Develops in Leaps and Bounds

By Army Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, HHC 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. – As Soldiers from the 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade moved on foot through a mock Afghan village with their weapons at the ready, they had no idea what was about to hit them. During scenario after scenario, role players acting as Afghan villagers and insurgents came at them with broken down cars, rocket propelled grenades and worst of all, a language barrier.

During annual training, Soldiers practiced their individual jobs from intelligence analyst to human resource specialist, but before they could do that they participated in Army Warrior Tasks such as crawling under barbed wire, carrying casualties and reacting to being shot at by insurgents.

Infantry units may be better suited to deal with these types of situations; however, the 26th MEB is a very capable, new and special organization designed to support the national military strategy and respond to state and federal authorities as a part of civil support operations. Although this covers a wide spectrum of functions, some examples could be during major combat operations, such as, overseeing river crossings, protecting forces and critical infrastructure, and reinforcing brigade combat teams with tailored engineer, military police, chemical, or other supporting capabilities.

This multifunctional brigade has personnel assigned to it that cover a range of skill-sets; however no matter what their specialty, all of these people are Soldiers first and must train to fight and survive on the modern battlefield.

At the Maj. Jeffrey R. Calero Military Operations in Urban Terrain Site, a mock urban setting where service members are trained to operate in populated cities and towns, the Soldiers practiced patrolling villages and searching buildings for hostile forces nestled amongst noncombatants.

Jake Collins, a civilian contractor hired to assist during the peak training season switched between roles as an Afghan motorist having car trouble and an insurgent that surrendered to American Soldiers. Summing up his experience on Camp Edwards Collins said, "I'm very impressed with what I've seen during the three weeks that I've been here. They have to do the impossible. I've heard about it but now I've seen it."

To enhance training the Soldiers were taken away from their normal sections and assigned to mixed platoons and learned to work together as a team under stressful conditions.

Army Spc. Anthony C. DeCarlo, a cook assigned to HHC 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, experienced the challenges the MOUT site had to offer from a screaming woman to sporadic ambushes by anti-Afghan forces. After completing the last training scenario DeCarlo smiled and expressed his relief saying, "That's confusing stuff out there."

Physicians assistants, military police and human resource specialists from the 26th all have one thing in common, they are trained in the Army Warrior Tasks so that when they are placed in unfamiliar circumstances they can react to whatever awaits them behind the next door, window or on the next street. During their time at the MOUT site they quickly remembered their combat drills, learned from their mistakes, and refined their techniques to become better after every scenario.

Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Johnson, a trainer from the 181 Infantry Brigade, 1st Army said, "This group has been doing very well. They are mainly a brigade staff that doesn't do this type of training as part of their main focus. They have progressed in leaps and bounds today since their first run through the MOUT site and that's what the training is all about."

Army Sgt. Amy J. Barry, a human resources sergeant with the 26th recalled her experiences during annual training saying, "The MOUT site was a good training tool for us, it brought many different sections together

Army Staff Sgt. Jesus G. Vazquez, a human resources sergeant with the 26th MEB scans for threats while on his way to clear a building for possible threats during a training exercise the Maj. Jeffrey R. Calero Military Operations in Urban Terrain Site on Camp Edwards, Mass., June 20, 2010. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James C. Lally, HHC 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade)

allowing us to learn from the experiences of some who have been deployed overseas. The training was videotaped and we got to watch some of it and received advice on how to handle some situations and maneuver techniques better. It was a great exercise for team building and cohesion for us as a Brigade. We also did some other team building activities that were a little less stressful than the MOUT site like the rappel tower, played sports and went through the Leadership Reaction Course," said Barry.

The LRC challenges small teams of Soldiers mentally and physically with tasks such as crossing a body of water by lashing two short planks together and having one Soldier try to walk to the end of the plank and jump the rest of the way. The challenge was that one Soldier had to balance precariously over the water while the rest of the team used their combined weight to hold the board still.

Going through this type of training helps to build history between the Soldiers and will hopefully help them gel as a team no matter what the future may bring.

Outlining the challenges of training and developing a specialized unit like the 26th, Master Sgt. David Correia, the MEBs acting 1st Sgt. said, "Two of our challenges are team development and cohesion. When you look at the MEB it's more like a league than an individual franchise. The many cells such as military police, engineers, chemical, medical, administration, etc. that make up the MEB must function as a team if they are to be successful as a team. Once the smaller teams are developed, the larger team is brought together through inclusion and cohesion. The sense of being part of something bigger, that is doing something greater than just what your team can do alone. I think we did well at team development considering this was our first annual training as a MEB and I look forward to the future," said Correia. ★

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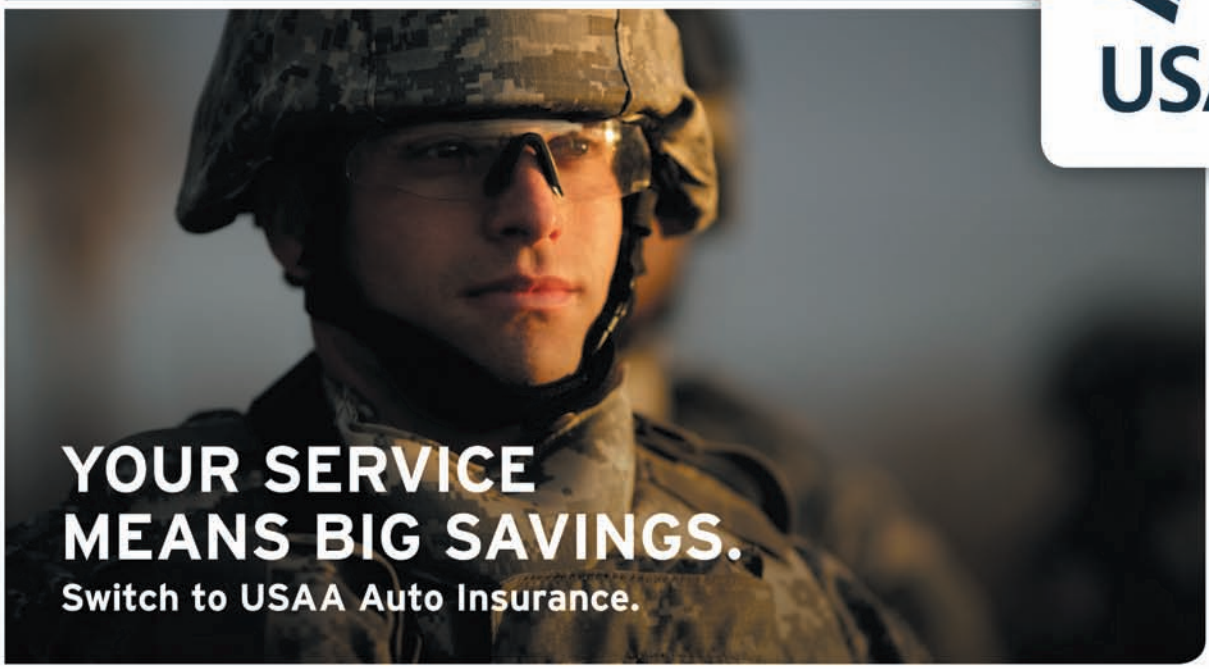

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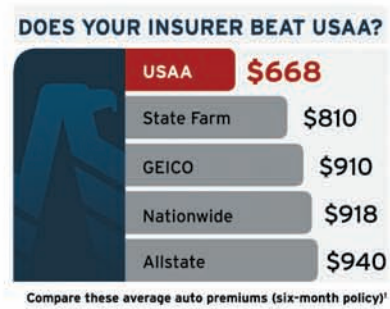

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Blood, Blood, Oh God, the Blood!

Medical Training at TTB Kelley

Story and photos by Spc. Alfred Tripolone III, 65th Press Camp Headquarters

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. – When you see it, what reaction will you have? Will you freeze? Will you snap into action? Will you faint? I'm talking about blood, the substance of life, which inevitably flows with any major injury. When it happens for real, will the simulated injuries you practiced in training be enough preparation? Preparedness has always been a foundation of the National Guard, which means realistic training is a must, including simulated injuries.

Training this year has taken a turn for the realistic, as part of eXportable Combat Training Capability, or XCTC, exercises taking place on Tactical Training Base Kelley. Soldiers are faced with increasingly realistic depictions of war, complete with simulated wounds that need treatment.

As much as possible, injuries must look as gruesome and horrifying as in combat. No one knows that better than the casualty. Even in training, the wounded go through entirely too much. In this case, two or more hours of application time. Sitting in a chair, being subjected to glues and injury-based prosthetics, Pfc. Abner Coelho, a member of the 182nd Area Support Medical Company, allowed himself to be the simulated victim of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. After hours of the application of prosthetic wounds realistic enough to pass as genuine, Coelho headed out into the field.

In the field, Coelho was discovered by Soldiers training on one of the lanes used during XCTC. They responded with combat lifesaver techniques to stabilize him and treat wounds consisting of an amputated arm, multiple broken bones and shrapnel in one eye. The CLS techniques allowed Coelho to "survive" long enough to be safely evacuated from the area via helicopter and transported back to TTB Kelley, where he was tended by another group of Soldiers also from the 182nd.

After Coelho's wounds were stabilized enough for transport, he was moved to a waiting ambulance and taken to the triage center where more in-depth care was available. Once inside, his wounds were fully assessed by a team of medics, and proper care was rendered to each injury, based on severity.

As part of the eXportable Combat Training Capability exercises at Tactical Training Base Kelley on June 8, 2010, Sgt. Shondra T. Shahin, left, a treatment team leader with the 182nd Area Support Medical Company out of Concord, Mass., tends to the head and torso of a patient, while Sgt. Siannaleigh Miller, a medic with the 182nd, cuts away the uniform to get a better view of the injuries and treat them. XCTC exercises use highly realistic, movie-quality effects to create an accurate recreation of combat and combat injuries.

"It definitely creates pressure on the Soldiers," said Sgt. David Busch, 23, from Dorchester, a member of the 182nd. "It's very hard to mimic the pressure [experience] overseas." The moulage (French for mold, i.e. prosthetics and makeup) and simulated blood really make an impact on the Soldiers, highlighting the gravity of a job that must be done, he said.

With almost 2,000 Soldiers participating and roughly 300 more in support, XCTC is the largest military pre-mobilization on Camp Edwards since World War II. It provides highly effective, very realistic, in-depth training. The training is a valuable tool for Soldiers preparing for deployment. XCTC allows units to work together in a military setting that better prepares for combat overseas.

"While we're out here, we're providing medical support for everyone participating in the XCTC," said 2nd Lt. Amanda R. Ponn, 23, a treatment platoon leader and acting commander of the 182nd. "This is a great training opportunity for our medics to work with a little bit of everyone out here." ✯

An ambulance crew from the 182nd Area Support Medical Company out of Concord, Mass., uses a litter to transport a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device casualty from a Black Hawk helicopter during eXportable Combat Training Capability exercises on Tactical Training Base Kelley on June 8, 2010. XCTC exercises utilize state-of-the-art technologies to reproduce combat scenarios in preparation for deployment.

Massachusetts Guard Photographers Play Key Role in Securing Federal Disaster Relief Funds

Story by Army Sgt. 1st Class Don Veitch, 65th Press Camp Headquarters

MILFORD, Mass. – Massachusetts National Guard photographers working with state and federal disaster response officials provided invaluable supporting documentation for the commonwealth's formal request for federal emergency funding during the spring flooding in Massachusetts.

Soldiers from the 65th Press Camp Headquarters, 1st Civil Support Team and the Joint Force Headquarters-Public Affairs Office accompanied representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency on preliminary damage assessment missions and provided photographic documentation of flood damage throughout the hardest hit communities.

The photos are intended to be used to back up written assessments, said Bill Winn, a project specialist with FEMA. The photos could also be used for planning purposes during repair and mitigation projects, he said.

The Soldiers were among the more than 1,200 Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers and Airmen called to state active duty to help combat the widespread flooding in eastern Massachusetts.

The public affairs Soldiers were assigned an initial task of publicizing the efforts of the units directly involved in the assistance effort. When the waters receded, and the majority of Soldiers were deactivated, their assignment changed to the preliminary damage assessment missions.

A Massachusetts Guard photographer accompanied each of the seven damage assessment teams from locations in Tewksbury and Framingham. The teams, led to the hardest hit areas by local emergency response officials, documented the flood damage with written assessments and photographs.

The Massachusetts National Guard also dispatched UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to conduct aerial reconnaissance and collect damage assessment video as part of the documentation process.

"I have been all over the state surveying flood damage through a lens," said Pvt. Errold Corbin, of Brockton, a broadcast journalist with the 65th PCH. "It really hits home when it's going on in your own back yard."

Corbin and Sgt. 1st Class Steven Tedeschi, of Hull, a public affairs non-commissioned officer with JFHQ-PA, provided the aerial video footage presented to President Barack Obama during his visit to the MEMA headquarters in Framingham, April 1, 2010.

"Having my work viewed by the president on my first mission as a Guardsman really shows the magnitude of our military obligation," said Corbin. "The reward is to see your work taken seriously by the public and the fellow Soldiers around you."

"My role was to provide photo and video support for FEMA and MEMA," said Tedeschi. "These agencies could then submit reports on the disaster stricken communities with a visual documentation of the damages. It gave me a new perspective on what these agencies do to help communities during a disaster and how important they are to our American way of life."

The president declared Massachusetts a Federal Disaster Area at the request of state officials supported by documentation collected since the beginning of heavy rains March 12, 2010.

"These Soldiers have, once again, proved the strength of the Massachusetts National Guard lies in the diversity of our units and their unique capabilities," said Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, the Adjutant General, Massachusetts National Guard. "Our ability to provide mission flexibility under very dynamic circumstances as well as readily available units to respond to the needs of the commonwealth is possible, in large part, due to these strengths."

The disaster declaration means individuals and business owners who sustained losses after March 12 as a result of the flooding can apply for assistance by contacting FEMA at 1-800-621-3362. ✯

LITTLETON, Mass. – *Massachusetts Department of Transportation employees work to repair damage from a collapsed culvert on Route 119 on April 8, 2010. The road, damaged when the culvert failed because of excessive flooding, normally sees up to 20,000 commuters a day and was closed for more than a week while undergoing repairs (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Don Veitch, 65th Press Camp Headquarters).*

101st FA Opens School

Lt. Col. James Hally, left, helps Deputy Minister of Education Mohammad Sediq Pattman cut the ribbon to officially open the Ali Khail School on June 16, 2010. Hally, commander, 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, Massachusetts Army National Guard, facilitated the construction of the $200,000 school (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michael Hardy, Task Force Kabul).

By 2nd Lt. Jordan A. Breau
1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment

KABUL – Lt. Col. James Hally, commander of the 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, and the Deputy Minister of Education of Afghanistan, Mohammad Sediq Pattman, stood alongside the village elders of Ali Khail to cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the school for students of the Deh Sabz region June 16, 2010.

"We are very grateful and thankful for the U.S. for helping us build this school," said Pattman. "This school wouldn't have happened without the assistance of the United States Army. The people of the United States of America gave us this school, and it's our duty for us to take advantage of this gift," said Pattman to the crowd of villagers.

The people of Ali Khail have been waiting on a hard structured school since 1993 when the school was initially going to be built. The school's construction was halted because of the strong Taliban influence in the village. The Taliban has since loosened its grip on the area, allowing the school to be built without interruption.

"This school will improve the lives of the children in this village and begin to change the future generations of this country," said Pattman.

Prior to the construction of the school, the Afghan children were receiving their education inside tents without desks and chairs. Now that the temperature is heating up in Afghanistan, the school could not have come at a better time.

"Education is the answer to peace and prosperity for Afghanistan," said Hally. "Every school or education facility that we can assist in constructing will have an immediate and enduring impact on the future of Afghanistan."

Grades K-12 will be in session until November when the students will break until March. The school is broken into three gender-segregated shifts: two for male students and one shift for female students.

"Education is the foundation in building Afghanistan," said Pattman. "Most of this country's people are uneducated and ignorant. It is schools that will improve the lives and open the minds of the Afghan people." ★

"Education is the answer to peace and prosperity for Afghanistan. Every school or education facility that we can assist in constructing will have an immediate and enduring impact on the future of Afghanistan."

– Lt. Col. James Hally

Lt. Col. James Hally, right, commander, 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, Massachusetts Army National Guard, shakes hands with a village elder at the opening of the Ali Khail school, north of Kabul, on June 16, 2010. Hally facilitated the construction of the $200,000 school (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Jordan Breau, Task Force Kabul).

HUNDRED CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS
Honors Service Members from State

By Army Maj. James Sahady, Massachusetts National Guard Public Affairs

BOSTON – Nearly 600 public safety and military personnel, families and friends attended the annual dinner of The Hundred Club of Massachusetts at the Boston Park Plaza on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

Ten police officers and firefighters from all branches of the United States Armed Forces were honored for their service to their country and communities. The members have served in Iraq or Afghanistan and have performed above and beyond the call of duty during their tours. These outstanding professionals were recognized as "Heroes Among Us" and received a special award from The Hundred Club.

The event was narrated by State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and attended by several dignitaries including Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Secretary of Public Safety and Security of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, general officers, and police and fire chiefs from dozens of police and fire departments around the commonwealth.

The Hundred Club of Massachusetts was founded in 1959 by Greater Boston business leader Norman Knight to assist families of firefighters and law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty. Through the years, The Hundred Club has financially helped thousands of Massachusetts families in need. The club also has a number of ongoing programs for survivors.

The following service members were recognized.

Brig. Gen. James E. Keighley

Rhode Island Army National Guard and Fall River Police Department
Accompanied by Police Chief Daniel Racine

Keighley is commander of the 43rd Military Police Brigade and also serves as the ground component commander for state emergencies. He has completed two tours in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

Capt. Dean Desautels

United States Army and Rutland Fire Department
Accompanied by Fire Chief Thomas Ruchala

While serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Desautels led an immediate reaction force to assist Afghan national police engaged in a heavy firefight with Taliban forces. He coordinated the two-day pursuit and capture of several enemy insurgents. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

Mrs. Patricia West – on behalf of her husband
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Scott C. West

Massachusetts Army National Guard and Greenfield Police Department
Accompanied by Police Chief David Guilbault

While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, West was involved in a battle with insurgents that turned into two days of fighting and resulted in the deaths of more than 100 insurgents who had disrupted activities in that region. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. He is currently at Fort Bragg waiting deployment for another tour. Patricia West is also a Greenfield police officer.

From left: State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan; Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, the Adjutant General of Massachusetts; Mrs. Beth Cinelli, spouse of currently deployed Chief Petty Officer Gregory Cinelli, United States Navy and Saugus Fire Department; Capt. Dean Desautels, United States Army and Rutland Fire Department; Gunnery Sgt. Michael Connors, United States Marine Corps and Lunenburg Police Department; Spc. Phillip Valliant, United States Army and Lowell Police Department; Mrs. Patricia West, spouse of currently deployed Chief Warrant Officer 4 Scott West, Massachusetts Army National Guard and Greenfield Police Department; Brig. Gen. James Keighley, Rhode Island Army National Guard and Fall River Police Department; 1st Sgt. Jason Ford, United States Army and Brockton Police Department; Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Bailey, United States Marine Corps and Arlington Fire Department; Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Kelly, Massachusetts Army National Guard and Boston Fire Department. Not pictured: Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Baillargeon, Massachusetts Army National Guard and Westfield Police Department. The above service members were recognized as "Heroes Among Us" and received an award by The Hundred Club of Massachusetts at the Boston Park Plaza on May 12, 2010 (Photo by John McMahon, JPM Photography).

Chief Warrant Officer 3 James L. Bailey

United States Marine Corps and Arlington Fire Department
Accompanied by Fire Chief Robert Jefferson

Bailey served as the platoon commander of a personnel security detail in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He led the detail on more than 150 combat patrols and counterinsurgency missions in Iraq. Bailey was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for Valor.

Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey A. Baillargeon

Massachusetts Army National Guard and Westfield Police Department
Accompanied by Fire Chief John Camerota

While deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Baillargeon led the ground effort of United States and Afghan forces through an intense four-hour firefight with no loss of life to United States or coalition forces. He independently motivated Afghan coalition forces, with little to no interpreter presence, into a single organized unit that cleared multiple enemy compounds. Baillargeon was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for Valor.

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory G. Kelly

Rhode Island Army National Guard and Boston Fire Department
Accompanied by Fire Chief Ron Keating

Kelly received an award, but asked that the details of his work overseas not be made public.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Ford

United States Army and Brockton Police Department
Accompanied by Police Chief William Conlon

While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ford was on a mission to secure an Iraqi city and was wounded when an improvised explosive device went off next to his vehicle. As the leader and only American on the mission, Ford continued to lead 25 Iraqi soldiers in small-arms battle with insurgents and completed the mission. Ford was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

Mrs. Beth Cinelli – on behalf of her husband

Chief Petty Officer Gregory S. Cinelli

United States Navy and Saugus Fire Department
Accompanied by Fire Chief James Blanchard

While serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Cinelli's patrol was ambushed by armed insurgents. Without regard for his own safety, Cinelli stepped into the line of fire to rescue a Marine who had been shot in the head, ultimately saving his life. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for Valor. Cinelli is currently on his fourth tour in Iraq.

Gunnery Sgt. Michael P. Connors

United States Marine Corps and Lunenburg Police Department
Accompanied by Police Chief Daniel Bourgeois

While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Connors' section came under enemy fire. He immediately coordinated with adjacent units, providing them with situational awareness and machine gun fire on enemy positions, and established a medical evacuation for wounded Marines, while still covering an exposed area. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

Spc. Phillip Valliant

United States Army and Lowell Police Department
Accompanied by Police Superintendent Kev Lavalee

While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Valliant conducted defensive operations to deny enemy forces access to a coalition base. During this battle and mostly because of Valliant's actions, his platoon suffered only three injured. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

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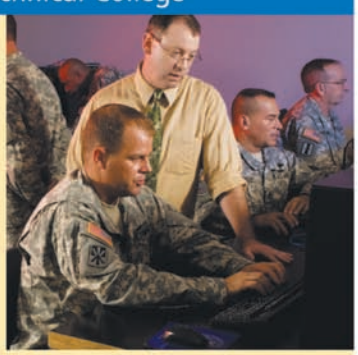

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Air Guard Builds Relationships with Business Leaders

By Master Sgt. Mavi Smith, The I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center

McGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. – More than 90 civic, business and military leaders from 11 Northeast states traveled to The I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center on April 28-30 for the National Guard Bureau's Business and Industry Days.

With more than half of America's fighting forces consisting of the reserve components, employers play a critical role in the defense of our nation.

Business and Industry Days is designed to give them a better understanding of the mission of the Air National Guard, the responsibilities and training of its citizen Airmen, and how this can benefit them as employers.

"During their trip, they get to see just exactly what the Air Guard is all about," said Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Moisio, deputy director of the Air National Guard. "We show them some of what goes on here and get them talking to us. We want them to understand exactly what they are doing by hiring and supporting Guardsmen."

Establishing positive relationships with employers is important to service members because it helps to minimize the stress that sometimes comes with balancing military and civilian life.

"It's always good to expose what we do and who our Airmen are," said Chief Master Sgt. Chris Muncy, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard. "These employers are key to the morale and welfare of our troops ... for them to understand us is huge."

The employers, who represent top businesses such as Bank of America and the Hershey Company, and industries ranging from manufacturing to law enforcement, arrived on military aircraft along with key National Guard members from their respective states.

After a friendly welcome from National Guard Bureau, Training and Education Center, and 134th Air Refueling Wing personnel, they began a full

Military and civic leaders from 11 northeastern states participated in the National Guard Bureau-sponsored Business and Industry Days event at The I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center on April 29, 2010. The three-day event was designed to give business and industry leaders a better understanding of the responsibilities of citizen Airmen.

Eight Massachusetts business and industry leaders boarded a military C-26 aircraft and headed to Knoxville to attend the National Guard Bureau-sponsored Business and Industry Days event at The I.G. Brown Air National Guard Training and Education Center.

Monserrate Quinones, left, director of diversity for Massachusetts Department of Corrections.

Rachel Gillette, left, Wareham School Committee member.

David Vierra, left, Falmouth Town Moderator; Oswald Mondejar, Partners Healthcare in Boston; Massachusetts State Police Capt. Steven Hughes and Maj. Gen. Michael D. Akey, commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Oswald "Oz" Mondejar, vice president of human resources/community relations for Partners Healthcare in Boston.

Massachusetts participants included:
Monserrate Quinnones, Massachusetts Department of Corrections
James Koehler, Gateway Regional High School
Patrick Flavin, TJX Companies
Capt. Steven Hughes, Massachusetts State Police
Rachel Gillette, Wareham School Committee
Oswald Mondejar, Partners Healthcare
David Vierra, Falmouth Town Moderator
Anthony Resnick, City of Chicopee

schedule of activities designed to introduce them to the training opportunities available to their employees through Air National Guard membership.

Events included information on employer support programs, tours of the base and aircraft, and a variety of team-building activities.

A highlight of the program was the experiential learning events of the Training and Education Center's Leadership Evaluation Course.

This outdoor obstacle course was used to reinforce lessons learned in the classroom. Using simulated scenarios, these employers were able to experience how enlisted professional military education courses teach Airmen to apply lessons in communications, resource management, problem solving, teamwork, leadership and followership to real-world situations.

Whether they led a patrol into enemy territory to repair a damaged communications site or crossed a rope bridge and scaled a cliff to deliver badly needed medical supplies ... the experience was positive.

"This training is directly transferable to not only our students but to these business and industry leaders," said Chief Master Sgt. Chris Coyne, chief of the center's transformative education branch. "We know the challenges and difficulties (they) face in allowing their Guardsmen to go away to school."

"We take that very, very seriously," continued Coyne. "And we're very proud of the fact that when people leave our courses, they're ready to lead ... and they're going to do that mostly in their (employers') organizations, not in ours."

Many of the leaders walked away from the event with not only a better understanding of the value of the training military members receive, but a deeper appreciation for the practical skills that such training provides.

Many also expressed opinions that were reflective of an overwhelming pride and patriotism for military services and their highly motivated and educated members.

"This has been an outstanding experience," said Timothy Farrell, a senior vice president for Bank of America, a company that actively recruits military personnel. "As a major company in this country today, we feel supportive of our military services. So, what better way to support them than by looking for new associates that can benefit both our company and our country?"

"Our goal was to give them as great an awareness as possible, in a short amount of time, of what it is that their employees, our military members, are experiencing here and the value of the product they get back," said Col. Richard B. Howard, commander of the Training and Education Center. Mission accomplished, said many of the employers.

"This experience has been a blast," said Barbara McLaughlin, director of corporate relations for Northeast Delta Dental in Concord, N.H. "I wanted to come down here and see the folks who are on the front lines of our defense, so it's been a lot of fun to be here."

"It's been great," agreed Ann Miller, senior vice president of human resources for Freedom Federal Credit Union in Hartford County, Md. "Everybody here has been wonderful to us, absolutely wonderful, so it gives us a really positive feel for the military services." ★

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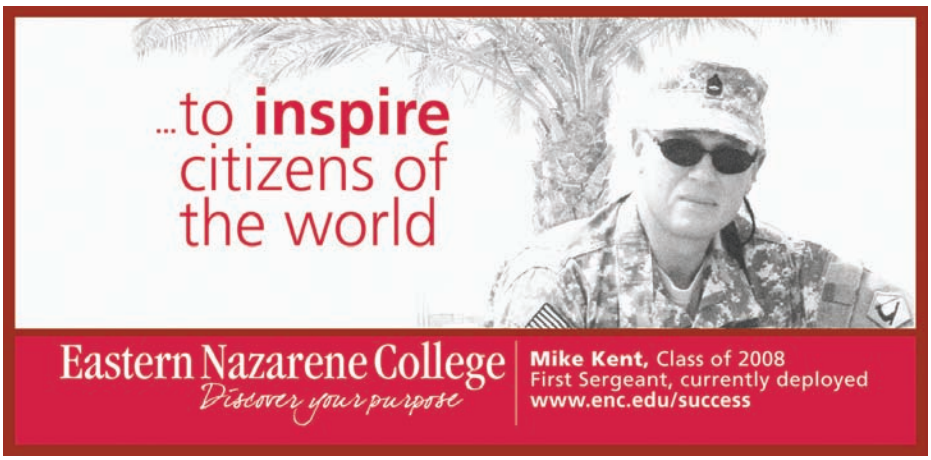

747th MP Company Returns Home from Iraq

Story and photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Don Veitch, Massachusetts National Guard Public Affairs

Capt. Jim Jones, commander of the 747th Military Police Company Massachusetts National Guard, leads his unit as they march into the Ware High School Veterans Memorial Stadium on July 2, 2010. Family and friends await the unit's return from a year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Don Veitch, Massachusetts National Guard Public Affairs).

WARE, Mass. – More than 500 family and friends, along with the dozens of signs that adorned West Street, welcomed home the 170-plus Soldiers of the 747th Military Police Company, Massachusetts National Guard on July 2, 2010.

The 747 arrived after a year-long deployment to Iraq where they were responsible for training police departments throughout the province in their area of operations.

The Soldiers, led by Capt. Jim Jones, commander of the 747th, disembarked the busses, which brought them from Fort Dix, N.J., and marched into Ware High School Veterans Memorial Stadium to cheers from their waiting loved ones.

Jones assembled the 747th onto the stadium field for one final formation prior to being released for the holiday weekend.

Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray was in attendance and briefly addressed the Soldiers, congratulated them on a successful mission and wished them a happy Independence Day.

Jones completed the informal ceremony by handing the formation over to 1st Sgt. Michael Domnarski, 747th MP Company, who promptly dismissed the Soldiers.

"The mission went well," said Domnarski, a Ware resident. "All the soldiers made it home in one piece."

A formal welcome home ceremony for the 747th will be announced at a later date. ✯

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UNITED CONCORDIA

125th Quartermaster Company Returns from Iraq

WORCESTER, Mass. – Family and friends welcomed home 21 Soldiers from the 125th Quartermaster Company, Massachusetts National Guard, on May 6, 2010.

The Soldiers, deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, were responsible for all facets of water production and distribution to multi-national units on Camp Scania. They purified and distributed more than 100 million gallons of water.

The 125th was directly responsible for sustaining life on the camp by providing water and support to more than 1,000 residents and hundreds of transients daily. The water this unit purified and distributed was used throughout the camp for drinking, cooking, laundry, personal hygiene, cleaning and other uses. The 125th also provided the dining facility with ice, bottled water, beverages and food. ✯

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Don Veitch, Massachusetts National Guard Public Affairs).

Service Member Spotlight

This story was published in the summer 2010 issue of Massachusetts Minuteman with an incorrect photo.

Senior Airman Travis Miller

By Senior Airman Matt Benedetti, 104th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Travis Miller joined the Air Force later in life than most of his colleagues in the metals technology shop at the 104th. Being a 29-year-old enlistee is never easy. However, Miller had always been keenly aware of a family military legacy that ultimately influenced his decision and compelled him to enlist in his grandfather's former unit.

Miller's grandfather, Tech. Sgt. Charlie Samson, was a tail gunner on the B-24 "Miss Behave" during World War II. A veteran of several dangerous missions, including the raid on the Ploesti oilfields in Romania in 1943, Samson also served as a Guardsman at the 104th from 1956 to 1977.

Miller, a metals technology craftsman, has been a unit member for nearly three years. His duties include the manufacture and repair of equipment metal parts, using conventional machining and welding methods. Miller enjoys his work. "The opportunity to complete so many different types of aircraft repairs and supporting other shops allows the F-15 to be ready when called upon. I get to meet unit members throughout the various squadrons on base," he said.

The earnest Airman is grateful to Master Sgt. Peter Lupien who became a mentor to Miller before retiring. "He guided me in the right direction to help me become an all around experienced machinist," he said.

The Becket native is very active on base and is a member of the 104th FW Crash Damages Disabled Recovery Team. A cub master for a local Cub Scout Troop, he devotes considerable time to philanthropic efforts. ✯

Senior Airman Travis Miller works in the metals technology shop at the 104th Fighter Wing. Miller's duties include the manufacture and repair of equipment metal parts, using conventional machining and welding methods (USAF photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis).

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Fundraiser Helps Haiti Earthquake Victims

By Thomas Desmond, Deputy Director,
Human Resource Office, Massachusetts National Guard

MILFORD, Mass. – On Friday, May 7, 2010, members of the Massachusetts National Guard, in concert with the Haiti Fund, The Boston Foundation and the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants, held a fundraiser at the Kowloon Restaurant in Saugus, Mass., to assist victims of the Haiti earthquake.

"The event raised $3,100," said 2nd Lt. Tania Carter, community outreach program manager, Massachusetts National Guard.

The Massachusetts National Guard is a community based organization that gathers its strength from the communities it serves. The Guard has a long history of supporting its members and their families, particularly when disaster strikes. When word came of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the Guard knew that many of its members had family and relatives affected by the disaster.

The Guard Community Outreach Program works closely with communities throughout the Commonwealth. Plans were immediately put into action to provide support above and beyond the Guard's usual mission, Carter said.

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. *– Thomas Desmond, deputy director, Human Resource Office, Massachusetts National Guard; Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, The Adjutant General; Karen Ansara, Haiti Fund founder; 2nd Lt. Tania Carter, community outreach program manager; and State Command Sgt. Maj. David Costa present the $3,100 check from the May 7, 2010, fundraiser to Ansara on June 16, 2010 (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Don Veitch, 65th Press Camp Headquarters).*

The fundraiser brought together several key supporters of the minority community, including the Haiti Fund, established by Karen Ansara under The Boston Foundation, and the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants under the direction of Richard Chacon. ✯

National Guard Members Hone Joint and Combined Skills in Korea

MILFORD, Mass. – Thirty-nine members of the 151st Regional Support Group and D Company, 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist), participated in Combined Forces Exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2010 in the Republic of Korea March 7-19, 2010.

Key Resolve/Foal Eagle is an annual command post exercise designed to assess and improve the Combined Forces Command's capabilities. Key Resolve employs computer-based simulations focused on deploying troops and equipment to South Korea for major combat operations. Foal Eagle includes a series of field exercises. U.S. troops train directly with the Korean Army. Approximately 18,000 U.S. troops were involved in this year's exercise.

The 14 members of the 151st RSG detachment deployed from Framingham, Mass., to Camp Walker, South Korea, for Key Resolve. They joined the staff of the Eighth (Field) Army Operational Sustainment Directorate (G4). The training focused on materiel sustainment during full-scale theater-level conflict and was an unequalled opportunity for the 151st RSG troops to exercise and develop their individual and team skills.

Twenty-five members of D/223rd MI deployed from Cambridge, Mass., to Camp Humphreys and Yongsan Army Garrison, Korea. They augmented the 501st MI Brigade and the United States Forces Korea J2.

At the end of the exercise, the Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers consolidated at Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul and had a few hours to visit nearby museums, shops and restaurants. ✯

Massachusetts National Guard Supports 114th Boston Marathon from a Distance

Story and photo by Air Force Capt. Evan C. Lagasse
102nd Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

REHOBOTH, Mass. – The runners were only visible via cable television, and the crowd noise was not within earshot as Massachusetts National Guardsmen from two units supported the 114th Boston Marathon from a location 30 miles away from the race starting line.

Eighteen members of the Army National Guard's 79th Troop Command and seven members of the Air National Guard's 267th Combat Communications Squadron worked as a team on April 19, at the 79th Troop Command headquarters in Rehoboth, Mass.

The primary mission of the 79th Troop Command was to provide command and control from the 79th Emergency Operations Center for the more than 400 Soldiers and Airmen who were providing security along the marathon route.

"We are providing command and control and communications for the Boston Marathon, for the 400-plus Soldiers and Airmen that are activated," said Army Maj. Jeffrey Winn, 79th Troop Command executive officer. "We coordinate with all the different units that provide Soldiers and Airmen to the field, and we make sure they have lunches, bottled water and the right equipment. We also coordinate to get the buses to pick them up at their local armory and move them to their 'link up' location, which is traditionally a police station in each of the towns, where they get their Rules of Engagement briefing, and then we track them for pay and accountability purposes," said Winn.

While the 79th Troop Command Soldiers were providing command and control from their primary EOC, the 267th Combat Communications Squadron Airmen were prepared to provide a robust backup communications service using their Joint Incident Site Communications Capability system set up behind the 79th Troop Command Headquarters.

"We are supporting the 79th Troop Command Soldiers that are managing all of the National Guard troops supporting the Boston Marathon," said Air Force Capt. Joseph Friel, Joint Incident Site Communications Capability officer in charge. "The JISCC is a turn-key communications solution for small teams. We provide 15 laptops and phones with capability for additional user instruments as well. The [JISCC] is transportable, robust and relatively easy to configure and deploy in a short time frame."

Army Maj. Jeffrey Winn, 79th Troop Command executive officer, uses a laptop computer set up by the 267th Combat Communications Squadron in the 79th Tactical Operations Center during the Massachusetts National Guard's support in Rehoboth, Mass., of the 114th Boston Marathon, on April 19, 2010.

After the initial wave of runners had crossed the finish line, the Guardsmen took advantage of a valuable training opportunity. The 79th and 267th service members demonstrated the capability to conduct their EOC operations in field conditions. The 79th Soldiers set up two tents, and the 267th Airmen provided communication capabilities using the JISCC.

"[Today's mission] has gone really well. We have a great EOC here in Rehoboth. It has computers, internet, phones, cable television and connectivity with Joint Force Headquarters, but one of our great lessons learned from Operation Rising Water [where we provided flood prevention and relief to Massachusetts residents] was bringing in the folks from the 267th Combat Communications Squadron," said Lt. Col. Paul Landry, 79th Troop Command commander. "This is a great opportunity for us to train together and for the 267th to show us even more of what they're capable of bringing to the fight. Today we are practicing how they would come in and set up a Tactical Operations Center because if they can set it up here, they can set it up on the Boston Common or on the marathon route if we needed to be forward deployed."

Both the primary marathon support operations and the field training exercise showcased the strength of the Massachusetts National Guard and the importance of Joint operations.

"Although we're not a Joint unit here at the 79th, we are embracing the whole Joint activity, and we're using some of the best and brightest that both the Army and the Air Force have to offer. We can conduct operations anywhere. We can be out of here and operational in as much time as it takes to pack up a bag and drive wherever we're going," Landry said. ✯

Massachusetts Guardsman Remembered

Five Years After His Death, Sgt. Michael Kelley Honored in Memorial

Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, the Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, and Joseph Kelley, father of slain Sgt. Michael J. Kelley, take a moment to address troops during a memorial service held on Tactical Training Base Kelley on Sunday, June 6, 2010 (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Alfred Tripolone III, 65th Press Camp Headquarters).

By Army Spc. Alfred Tripolone III
65th Press Camp Headquarters

CAMP EDWARDS, Mass. – A chapel service was held at the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station, Cape Cod, on Sunday, June 6, to remember a Massachusetts National Guard Soldier who was killed in action June 8, 2005, while serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The chapel service was followed by a ceremony and laying of flowers at the Sgt. Michael J. Kelley Memorial on Tactical Training Base Kelley. The TTB was named in honor of Kelley, a member of the 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, based out of Rehoboth. The base is designed to rapidly train Soldiers through full emersion in a setting much like the one they will experience in combat.

After leaving flowers at the memorial site, Kelley's father, Joseph, spoke with Soldiers on the TTB before taking a tour of the compound. He said that it has been a hard five years since his son's death, but Michael would be very proud of the National Guard Soldiers training at TTB Kelley.

Currently, the Massachusetts National Guard is hosting one of the largest pre-mobilization training exercises at Camp Edwards on the Massachusetts Military Reservation since World War II. The exercise, based out of TTB Kelley, is known as XCTC (eXportable Combat Training Capability) and consists of Soldiers training on a series of field exercises designed with the overseas environment in mind.

The goal of this training is to provide high quality, realistic battlefield experience for approximately 2,000 Soldiers as they prepare for mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom. The rigorous exercises provide tough, realistic training and the means for mobilizing Soldiers to achieve required certification and proficiency for deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

The XCTC experience greatly enhances pre-mobilization training for the deploying Soldiers, ensures combat readiness and survivability, and provides an economic boost to the base and the local area. ✯

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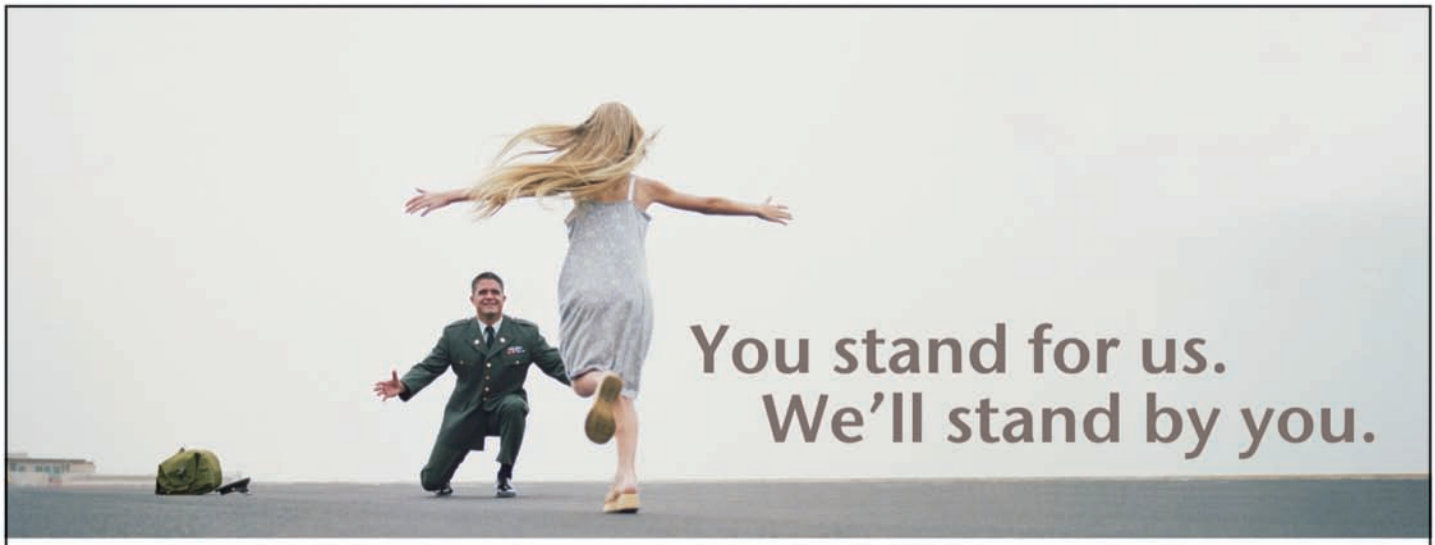

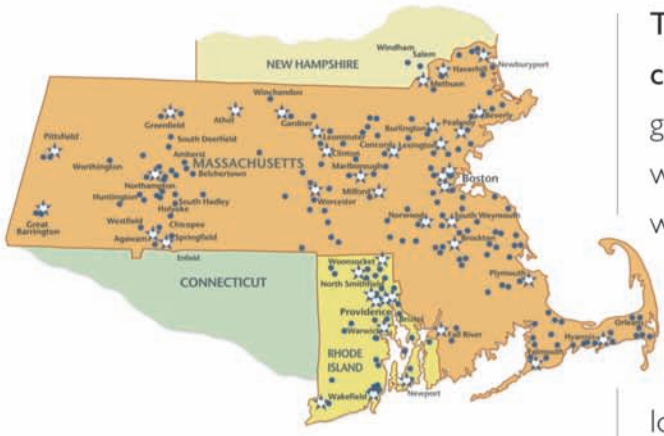

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